

ILLEGIB

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA ELINT Staff Officer

SUBJECT : Standard Tape Width and Speeds  
for CIA ELINT Program

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1. The [ ] program and other current developments have pointed up the need for standardized tapes widths and speeds in order to have a good collection and analysis facility with a minimum of equipment and training.

2. Tape widths of  $\frac{1}{4}$ " and 1" have been judged to be best for our needs and all equipment is being purchased so as to accommodate these two widths. The  $\frac{1}{4}$ " will most usually be a three-channel tape and our present purchases are so oriented. It is believed, however, that we will have  $\frac{1}{4}$ " tapes of 1 and 2 tracks since the military forces are using these configurations, and it is quite conceivable that future CIA operations may use one or two channel  $\frac{1}{4}$ " tape. However, three-channel operations will be preferred whenever possible. The 1" tape will carry 14 channels. It is believed that operations with 6 or less channel requirements should, in general, use  $\frac{1}{4}$ " tapes and more than six can probably best use the 1" 14-channel tape.

3. Tape speeds of 3  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 15 and 60 inches per second have been adopted. 3750 cycles/sec. is the minimum and acceptable for general ELINT purposes, thereby setting 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  as the lowest usable standard speed. Sixty is the maximum standard speed available today and is adequate for most complex f.m. and multicarrier signals. Fifteen inches/sec. will be an intermediate speed for special purposes. It is anticipated that no CIA operations will require other speeds between 3  $\frac{3}{4}$  and 60 inches/sec. The above speeds also allow duplicating at four times normal speed (except the 60 inches/sec. speed) as a time saver without additional equipment.

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JFS:jd (23 Mar 56)

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - ESO

1 - SPD, O/C [ ]

1 - ST/D [ ]

1 - O/SI (ELINT Branch)

1 - TSS

( 1 - SA/PC Reading (Green))  
( 1 - Project Chrono (Yellow)) - not shown on other copies

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